



## **2007 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG**

#### **Funding Priorities**

##### ★ Transportation Funding

The city urges the General Assembly to address transportation funding again as its highest unmet funding priority before the General Assembly again in 2007. The city supports increased transportation user-based taxes and fees, such as tolls, gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees, to address critical transportation needs, especially in Hampton Roads.

Given the current state of transportation funding, the city endorses the MPO package of “fiscal constrained” projects—especially I-64 widening from Route 199 east to Denbigh—recognizing these projects are wholly inadequate to meet the transportation needs of Hampton Roads.

##### ★ Virginia Tourism Funding

The city strongly urges the General Assembly to increase funding for the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) to promote tourism in Virginia generally, and in the Historic Triangle in particular, as a wise public investment with a demonstrable rate of return.

##### ★ State Support for Public Education

As recommended by the Williamsburg/James City County School Board, the city supports continued improvement in state funding for Standards of Quality, specific funding for school capital improvement projects and especially for Pre-K initiatives.

##### ★ Regional Jails—Treatment of Mentally Ill and Funding

The city supports the Virginia Association of Regional Jails and the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail Authority Board of Directors' concern that local jails should not be used as a treatment environment for the mentally ill and defacto housing of the mentally ill in jails should not be legitimized with a “restore individuals to competency” state program.

The city urges the Commonwealth to fund additional jail officer positions in regional jails to meet the staffing standards established by the Commonwealth.

★ College of William and Mary—School of Education

The city supports additional state funding for the construction and/or renovation, as necessary, for a facility to house the School of Education and its related educational and community outreach activities.

★ Funding for Public Libraries

The city supports the request of the Library of Virginia for \$2.1 million for funding of “Find it Virginia,” a statewide electronic database that provides a collection of full text reference works and articles for all public libraries, K-12 and community colleges.

★ Virginia Investment in Passenger Rail

The city supports continued Virginia investment in passenger rail infrastructure to increase reliability and speed of AMTRAK service from Washington to Richmond to Newport News.

## **NonFunding Priorities**

★ Residential Real Estate Tax Flexibility

The city supports additional local government authority to limit the real estate tax burden on homeowners, especially those of low and moderate incomes, while maintaining overall tax base and tax rates.

★ Deregulation of Electric Utility Rates

The city fears that deregulation of electric utility rates slated for 2011 will result in steep rate increases to residents and to the city government, as it has in neighboring states, and urges the General Assembly to preserve cost-of-service pricing.

★ Consistent Voter Registration; Determination of Domicile

The city requests that Virginia electoral statutes be amended to more precisely prescribe the factors to be considered by voter registrars state-wide in making their determinations of domicile providing for a more uniform approach in determining voter registration requirements.